

L. L. King



BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire



Joint
ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Public Health Inspector
for the year 1956

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December, 1956)

J. Oliver Chairman of the Council

R.L. Price Vice-Chairman of the Council

G. Bouston

D.H. Evans

M.J. Peto, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst.

Mrs. E.C. Powell

R.A. Pullen

H. Robinson Chairman of the Highways, Buildings,
 Public Health and Lighting Committee

G.T. Ross

F.J. Wall Chairman of the Finance and General
 Purposes Committee

F.M. Wilkes

Clerk to the Council .. L.A. Flint



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Medical Officer of Health

I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H.,
(resigned 31.10.56)

Acting Medical Officer of Health Ditto (from 1.11.56)

Public Health Inspector

A.A. MAXWELL, M.A.P.H.I.,

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Urban District
Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Powell, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1956, which has been prepared jointly by the Public Health Inspector and myself.

The health of the community remained good and, apart from thirtyone cases of Measles which were notified during the third quarter of the year, there were no major outbreaks of notifiable diseases.

A noteworthy event of 1956 was the passing of the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, which provides that Sanitary Inspectors shall in future be called Public Health Inspectors. Even a cursory study of the history of public health in Britain will reveal to the student the key position occupied by the Sanitary Inspector from earliest days. That he should have been called Sanitary Inspector is a tribute to him as an individual, to his profession, and also to the good sense and the knowledge of the classics of our forbears, who thought it appropriate to give him a designation derived from the Latin, sanitas - pertaining to and concerned with the preservation of health. It may be a reflection on the lowly place now occupied by the classics in school curricula that "sanitary" is, in the minds of many people, more closely associated with drains than with "health"; hence the decision of the House of Commons to give the Sanitary Inspector a new title.

The appointment of Dr. O.L. Evans as District Medical Officer of Health for the Northern Districts and as Assistant County Medical Officer, was made on December 5th, 1956. It was arranged that he would commence duty on March 1st, 1957, on which date my temporary appointment as Acting Medical Officer of Health, will terminate.

In view of my recent change of appointment this will be the last annual report that I shall present to you as your Medical Officer of Health. I shall retain very warm memories of my years of service, and of the happy relations that exist among officers and between members of the council and staff, - a spirit of harmony that contributes much to the effectiveness of work in the local government service.

I.F. MACKENZIE

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office: 4, Church Street, Loominster.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	213
Population	...	...	...	...	1,670
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to the Rate Books...	...	...	...	...	576
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£18,460
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£73.12. 2d.

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	...	23	8	15
(Illegitimate)	...	1	-	1
Total	...	24	8	16
STILL BIRTHS	...	Nil		
DEATHS	...	17	13	4
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE	...	1	-	1
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES		Nil		

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1956

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home Population)	14.4
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.7
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	Nil
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	23.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	10.2
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	41.7
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	23.8

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION

WATER SUPPLY

At the end of the year owing to the variable rainfall throughout the greater part of 1956, the supply reached a very low level. It is problematical what the position would have been had the four additional springs not been utilised. In view of this development - that is that the water supply was barely sufficient in spite of the additional springs - we must face the fact that some additional source must be incorporated in our system. Otherwise, with increasing consumption from the provision of new houses and, we hope, from industrial development, periodical shortages are inevitable.

The samples of the supply submitted for analysis have shown the quality to be satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The problem of flood water at the Disposal Works has not yet been dealt with, although tenders have been accepted. The approval of the Ministry concerned has not yet been received. Until this work is done, efficient operation of the Three Mills Disposal Works is improbable.

Experience has shown that the sludge in the humus tank cannot be pumped by hand back to the sedimentation tanks. An electrical pumping plant would, in view of this experience, be money well spent because not only would it save man-hours, but it would increase the efficiency of the plant substantially.

The erection of a fence around the Disposal Works though sanctioned by the Council, has not yet been done. The danger arising from trespass by children is self-evident in view of the depth of the open treatment tanks.

Proposed Modern Sewage Disposal Works

It will be recalled that in 1955 the Council instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for the treatment of the sewage at present being discharged in the raw state into the River Frome. Early in the year under review a preliminary report on the proposed works was submitted by the Engineers. This report revealed that the cost of an efficient plant of adequate capacity would be in the region of £30,000. The Council gave careful consideration to the proposals and it was resolved that the Engineers should proceed to the next stage, that is, the completion of the detailed plans and particulars required for the submission of the scheme to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The idea that country towns collect less domestic refuse per house than industrial areas is not borne out in this area. The contents of the refuse bins reveals the truth in certain cases of the facetious statement "A modern housewife only needs a can-opener". The empty can and waste paper content of the refuse is increasing year by year. Ashes, dust, and vegetable matter show little variation.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The condition of the Public Conveniences gives cause for some concern. Despite cleansing twice daily, it is regrettable to have to report that some persons, especially those using the female section, do not appreciate what is provided for their use.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

The two slaughter houses have been conducted in a satisfactory manner. The statement of animals slaughtered is given elsewhere in the report.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The efforts of the Operator produced the following results:-

Approximate kill:- at Refuse Tip.....110
in sewers.....200
private houses.... 51

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	32	3	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Prosec- utions
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Unreasonable temperature (S.5)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	2	-	1	-
TOTAL	2	4	-	2	-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Informal and Verbal Notices served	...	92
Ditto complied with	...	87
Letters sent	...	134
Complaints received	...	41
Nuisances found	...	19

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

GENERAL SUMMARY

Total number of Inspections ...	478
Total number of Re-inspections	298

DRAINAGE

New drainage installed ...	57
Repairs to existing drainage ...	32
Smoke and Water Tests ...	81

DWELLING HOUSES

Ordinary inspections ...	161
Infectious disease ...	8
Overcrowding ...	5

REFUSE DISPOSAL

New Bins ...	57
Accumulations of refuse ...	8
Tips ...	64
Rodent Control Surveys ...	30

WATER SUPPLIES

Inspection of Springs ...	45
Gauging ...	23
Testing Flow ...	24
Examination of Reservoirs ...	76

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Fairs, etc., ...	2
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FOOD PREMISES

Grocers, Dairies, Cafes and Butcher's Shops	69
Bakchouses ...	14

HOUSING

New houses erected and occupied:-

By Local Authority ...	46
By private persons ...	3

The provision of bungalows for old persons is now proceeding, and it is hoped that during the coming year twenty bungalows will be erected. Eight will be of the one-bedroom type and twelve of the 2-bedroom type.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

- 1 (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 61
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 147
- 2 Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for habitation .. 28

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR

Proceedings under the Public Health Act:

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs .. 41
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after the service of notices:-
 - (a) By Owners .. 30
 - (b) By Local Authority .. Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) BAKEHOUSES

The five bakehouses in the area are regularly inspected and the standard of cleanliness is satisfactory.

(b) ICE-CREAM

All ice-cream in the area is pre-packed and no complaints have been received.

(c) FOOD MANUFACTURING PREMISES

The cooperation of the trade in carrying out improvements, and in producing food under good hygienic conditions is to be commended.

(d) PUBLIC HOUSES AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

The conditions existing in all the catering establishments in the area are of a high standard, with one exception. In this case a scheme is now in operation to improve these premises.

(e) STATEMENT OF NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED

317 Bullocks	118 Heifers	2,104 Sheep & Lambs.
172 Calves	600 Pigs	

The total for the year was 3,311 carcasses. The increase over the previous year was due to one butcher supplying four shops in Birmingham.

In 1955 the total was 1,524 carcasses, and in 1954 the total was 1,355 carcasses.

(f) MEAT FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND DESTROYED

1,050 lbs.	...	Tuberculosis.
218 lbs.	...	Septic Matritis.
212 lbs.	...	Oedema.
219 lbs.	...	Distomatosis.
28 lbs.	...	Melanosis.
97 lbs.	...	Cirrhosis.
128 lbs.	...	Malnutrition.
418 lbs.	...	Excessive Bruising.
180 lbs.	...	Gutoedema.

(g) OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

Cans of various foodstuffs numbering 378 in all, were examined and destroyed, the main defects being either blown or rusty tins.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient							TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	
Measles	4	5	9	11	1	1	-	31
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1956 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of five males and six females who normally reside within the district.

During the year one new Non-Pulmonary case was notified, and one Pulmonary case moved into the district.

In the same period two persons left the district, one Pulmonary and one Non-Pulmonary.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26

Vaccination and Immunisation

Numbers of children in the district who were treated during the year:-

Purpose of Injection	Age of child								Rein-forcing Injections
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15 & Over	Total	
Immunisation against Diphtheria	17	8	-	1	7	1	-	34	40
Immunisation against Whooping Cough	18	7	1	1	-	-	-	27	-
Vaccination against Smallpox	21	-	-	-	1	-	-	22	1

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	TOTAL
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	2	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	1	-	1
Coronary disease, angina ...	2	-	2
Other heart disease...	3	-	3
Pneumonia ...	-	1	1
Bronchitis ...	3	-	3
All causes ...	13	4	17

